			20 July 1954	
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	CENTRAL INT	ELLIGENCE A	GENCY	

SUMMARY

SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. 2.	Expansion of Viet Minh activities in central Laos indicated (page 3). Premier Diem seeks to strengthen position in South Vietnam (page 3).	25X1
3.		
	NEAR EAST - AFRICA	

Israel may resume work on controversial Jordan River canal (page 4).

25X1A

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	SOUTHEAST ASIA		
1.	Expansion of Viet Minh activities in central Laos	indicated:	
25X1	The Viet Minh comman large expansion of its ' forces, initially to be Laos/	'Pathet Lao'' guerrilla 🕹	5X1]
	gested enemy plans for future operations in Laos, autumn dry season. The Viet Minh is said to be i ing several access routes from Tonkin into northe piling food there. In central Laos, elements of the Division are to be joined by its 95th Regiment, who was operating in the Tonkin delta.	possibly during the mproving or constructern Laos and is stock-ne Viet Minh 325th	•
25X1A ^{2.}	Premier Diem seeks to strengthen position in sou	th Vietnam:	
	Premier Ngo Dinh Dier Binh Xuyen-controlled Saigon in authorizing an stration in that city on point of winning the support of a leader of an impo Cao Dai sect, the American embassy in Saigon re antipartition demonstrators were apparently Cao	police authorities of n antipartition demon- 18 July and is on the ortant faction of the ports. Most of the	
	attitude of the Binh Xuyen as one of "wary willing police powers in exchange for other equally lucrate	describes the ness'' to relinquish	25X1
	Comment: Diem's cab of northerners and includes no representatives of groups and other politicians in the south who figur ments. The French have reportedly been working	the politico-religious red in earlier govern-	

politicians with a view to setting up a Cochinchina republic. The establishment of such a state would play into the hands of the Viet Minh, since it would have no Vietnamese nationalist appeal.

By winning greater support in the south for his own government, Diem would be better able to counter such plans.

25X1 ^{3.}

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. 25X1Å	Israel may resume work on controversial Jordan River canal:			
	The American embassy in Tel Aviv beli Israel may soon resume work on the por of its Jordan River diversionary canal w lies in the Israeli-Syrian demilitarized	rtion vhich		
Œ	According to the Israeli minister in Was ton, his government is under "strong pr sures" at home to continue the project a Israel cannot refrain indefinitely from d	es- nd		
	A			

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Comment: Resumption of this work, which was ordered stopped by the UN truce supervisor on 23 September 1953, would provoke stiff Arab opposition and could lead to a fresh series of incidents. It could also negate the progress made by Special Ambassador Eric Johnston during his recent discussions with Arab leaders on the American plan for development of the Jordan River valley.